

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: BPRO, ETRD, IT
SUBJ: DATA BANKS - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INQUIRY

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY NON-PROFIT ENTITY CONCERNED WITH THE ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION, COMPUTER PROGRAMS, AND OTHER SOFTWARE FROM US PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DATA BANKS. ENTITY IS OFFSHOOT OF THE UNION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WHICH, IN ITALY, IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. ENTITY IS USING AMERICAN EDP TECHNOLOGY, PLANS TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE US TO STUDY OUR TECHNOLOGY AND TO BUY PROGRAMS ETC. NOTE THAT IT HAS ALREADY REQUESTED AND RECEIVED EXTENSIVE INFORMATION FROM USDOC, AND NOW SEEKS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

2. A NON-PROFIT ENTITY, CERVED, THE INFORMATION ORGANIZATION OF THE ITALIAN NATIONAL UNION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, ITSELF AN OFFSHOOT OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, HAS VISITED THE EMBASSY CONCERNING THE AQUISITION OF AMERICAN KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH DATA BANKS. USDOC DIBA HAS ALREADY FURNISHED THEM, UNDER COVER OF A TRANSMITTAL SLIP DATED NOVEMBER 25, 1977, SIGNED BY KARIKAS OF THE EXPORT INFORMATION DIVISION, EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXPORT CONTACT LIST SERVICE, THE WTDR SYSTEM, AND THE FTI DATA TAPES. CERVED WOULD NOW LIKE TO ACQUIRE, GRATIS, IF POSSIBLE, THE COMPUTER PROGRAM AND OUTDATED SAMPLES OF THE VARIOUS DATA TAPES MAINTAINED BY USDOC. THEIR CHIEF
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GOAL IS TO DEVELOP A DATA BASE FOR ITALIAN EXPORTERS. (SUCH A SYSTEM ALREADY EXISTS IN ITALY, MAINTAINED BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN TRADE. IT HAS NOT, APPARENTLY, BEEN WIDELY ACCEPTED.

3. NOTE THAT THE AMBASSADOR, IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH MININD DONAT CATTIN IN JUNE AND JULY OF 1977, PASSED HIM INFORMA-

TION ON SOME US DATA BANKS THAT DONAT CATTIN HAD REQUESTED. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE INFORMATION AT THAT TIME PREPARED BY THE COMMERCIAL SECTION DEALT WITH THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE, INFORMATION ON CONTROL DATA CORPORATIONS CYBERNET WAS INCLUDED AS WELL. FOR SOME REASON WHICH WE STILL NEED TO DISCOVER, CERVED, THOUGH A RELATION (ALBEIT DISTANT) OF THE MININD, DID NOT KNOW OF THE MININD'S PRIOR RESEARCH INTO DATA BANKS.

4. FOR YOUR INFO, CERVED IS USING A UNIVAC 1100, HONEYWELL VIDEO UNITS AND TALLY PRINTERS.

5. IN A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH CERVED REPRESENTATIVES, WE MENTIONED THE DATA BASE AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK ON WHICH WE, UNFORTUNATELY, HAD NO DETAILED INFORMATION, AND THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE AND CYBERNET. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NTIS AT THIS JUNCTURE IS THAT PLANS TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH IN MILAN HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, HEARD THAT A FEASIBILITY STUDY IS BEING DONE TO ESTABLISH THE NTIS IN PARIS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER COMPUTER PROGRAM AND AN OUT-OF-DATE SAMPLE TAPE FOR ECLS, FTI, TRADE OPPORTUNITY, AND WTDR WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CERVED PER PARA 2 ABOVE. GARDNER

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